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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Twelve claims remain pending in the application: claims 9-20. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9-20 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejection

1. Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 5,557,471 of Fernandez. Although Applicant traverses these rejections, the application has been amended to expedite issuance of the claims which the Examiner has indicated are allowed. Non-allowed claims may be pursued in a continuation application and the substance of the rejection may be addressed at that time. The rejections are currently moot in view of Applicant's amendment.

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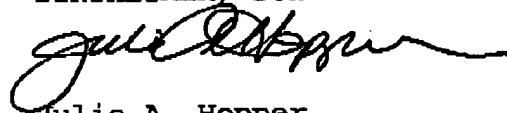
CONCLUSION

By way of this amendment, Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that Examiner telephone Thomas Lebens at (805) 781-2865 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that Claims 9-20 are now in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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